

GEORGE KUTHAN

IT IS WITH GREAT REGRET that we publish *Canadian Literature* for the first time without its customary decorations. The starkness of our pages in this issue betokens the ending, through the death of our decorative artist, George Kuthan, of an association which lasted unbroken, and with a respect which we hope was mutual, for more than seven years, the whole life of the magazine. During that time George Kuthan never failed for a single issue to produce new and interesting designs which often provided their own quietly ironic comments on what our writers had to say.

Born in Czechoslovakia, George Kuthan began his studies at the University of Prague, and left his native country for good when the Germans occupied it in 1939. He spent several years working in Paris, and in 1950 he came to Canada, where he lived until his untimely death last August. As those who have seen his exhibitions in Canada, the United States or Europe will remember, he was a graphic artist of great lyrical sensitivity, passionately concerned with the interpretation of natural forms, and extremely knowledgeable in the graphic traditions of the past — those of the Oriental miniaturists and of the mediaeval European woodcut-makers in particular. His book, *Vancouver, Sights and Insights*, for which Donald Stainsby wrote the text, was a great revelation of his virtuosity as an impressionistic draughtsman. To the life of Canada he made his own distinctive contribution, and from the surface of the Canadian land he received in turn much of his inspiration in later years.

We know that our readers will join in our sadness that his designs will no longer be there to decorate our pages, and that only our esteem and affection will remain in place of the artist who worked with us from the beginning, conscientiously and harmoniously.